Direct Receiving Sets in Andaman and Nicobar Island

3960. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of direct received sets installed in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and locations thereof;

(b) whether proper monitoring is being done about the functioning of such sets;

(c) whether most of these sets are lying out-of-order; and

(d) if so, action taken to restore those sets for public use?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Doordarshan have not installed any Direct Reception set in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicaobar Islands. However, the Union Territory Administration are reported to have installed 10 such sets, one each at Teresha, Katchal, Kadmkala, Ramakrishnapuram (Little Andaman), Sastrinagar (Great Nicobar, Dugong Creek, Havlock, Hutbey, Biliground & Kalighat.

(b) to (d). Whereas Doordarshan have received information from the Union Territory Administration about malfunctioning of certain Direct Reception sets, the maintenance of such sets is the responsibility of the Union Territory Administration. Nonetheless, the Union Territory Administration have been advised to transport the defective sets to Doordarshan's Maintenance Centre at Port Blair for undertaking necessary repairs.

[*Translation*]

Recommendation of Rammohan Rao Committee

3961. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of Rammohan Rao Committee on small newspapers;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted;

(c) whether any criteria has been laid down by the Government for the implementation of these recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) The Government have accepted all the recommendation of Rammohan Rao Committee with minor modification except one recommendation relating to special concessional postal tariff for small newspapers.

(b) The details of the recommendation accepted are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No specific criteria were laid down for implementation to the recommendation of the Committee.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Conclusions & Recommendations	Comment
1.	2	3
1.	In Tele-communication Tariff, the concession similar to those in respect of ordinary TP circuits may be extended to Data/Facsimile circuits as well. With the extended concession to Data/Fascimile, the news agencies can continue to extend their services to Small & Medium Newspapers, without any further increase in rates.	1. Accepted. The Deptt. of Telecommunications have extended to the Data/Fascimile circuits also the concessions given to ordinary TP circuits w.e.f. 1.1.91 The News Agencies have agreed to continue to provide the existing concessions to Small & Medium newspapers if Govt. support is available in the form of lower rates of communication tariff.
2.	The State Govt. may asked to set the bus schedules in such a manner as to facilitate the requirements of the small & medium newspapers also.	2. Accepted for recommending to State Govts./UTs for implementation.
3.	The facility of despatch of Newspapers under Monthly Account System of the Railways is given to Newspapers Agencies as and when such a request is made by them subject to fulfilment of necessary formalities.	3. Accepted. Ministry of Railways has informed that the facility of despatch of newspapers under the Monthly Account System of the Railways is available to Newspapers, as and when a request is made and subject to fulfilment of necessary formalities.
4.	Since the decration of Small & Medium newspapers as small scale industry would not be feasible some of the relevant concessions available to Small Scale industries should be exteded to small and medium newspapers.	4. Accepted. RBI has issued guidelines to all the scheduled commercial Banks advising that banks may treat the advances made to Small & Medium Newpaper units which satisfy the investment criteria laid down for small scale industrial units, as priority sector advances. Such Units are eligible for concessions in the rate of interest, margin money etc. as in the case of small scale industrial units.

S.No.	Conclusions & Recommendations	Comment
1	2	3
5	The availability of loans for second-hand equipment and machinery for printing presses, from the Nationalised Banks on the concessional terms as is now available to the new printing presses, be considered by the Ministry of Finance.	5. Accepted. Bnaks have been allowed to grant term loans to borrowers against second-hand machinery if such machinery is imported from abroad.
6.	The existing ceilling of Rs. 35 lakhs may be increased to Rs. 60 lakhs so that small and medium newspapers could meet their requirement of modernisation. The ceiling may be raised as and when the Govt. raises the ceiling of the SSI Units.	6. Accepted. The Ceilling of Rs. 35 lakhs has been increased to Rs. 60 lakhs. Since the criteria laid down for small scale industrial units have been made applicable to the small newspaper units, any further changes in the ceiling indicated for small scale units would be applicable to newspaper units also.
7.	State Govts. may be requested to consider allotment of suitable accommodation on priority basis to the Small & Medium Newspapers.	7. Accepted for recommending to State Govts./Uts. for impmentation.
8.	UNI & PTI should consider extending their service at concessional rates to help Small & Medium Nespapers to supplement their modernisation efforts.	8. Accepted, in effect. The News Agencies have agreed to continue the concessional rates for their services as in recommendation No.1. However, because of financial difficulties the News Agencies may not be able to go further. For modernisation, the loan facilities will be available from banks as in recommendation No. 4 & 5.
9.	The State Government may amend the accreditation rules to enable the Editors of Small newspapers at the Distt. Hqrs. level to get accreditation.	9. Accepted for recommending to State Govts./UTs for Implementation.

S.No.	Conclusions & Recommendations	Comment
1.	2	3
10.	To maintain status quo regarding slow-speed bulletin in regional languages by AIR.	10. Accepted.
11.	*PUBLICATION OF A COMPENDIUM* The Committee took note of the fact that various Government agencies are providing a number of facilities/concessions to the small and medium newspaper. Many newspapers of these categories are not aware of these facilities. The Committee suggests that Ministry of I & B may bring out periodically a Compendium of the concessions/facilities extended to the Small & Medium newspapers so that even newspapers published from the remotest corner of the country are aware of the concessions/ facilities available to them.	11. Accepted. Ministry of I &B has initiated action by collection relevant information from different Ministries/Deptts. for bringing out a compendium of the existing facilities/concessions extended to small and medium newspapers.